



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**AUSTIN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF ALIENS FOR PROSTITUTION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres, a resident alien living in Austin, Texas, pled guilty to one count each of importation of aliens for immoral purposes, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a stolen firearm.

By pleading guilty, Lopez-Torres admitted that from April 7, 2001 to May 22, 2003, she managed or supervised an operation where minor females smuggled from Mexico to Austin were forced to engage in commercial sex acts. Also, Lopez-Torres admitted that on July 26, 2003, she knowingly paid an individual between \$50-\$100 for a Sako bolt-action rifle. Lopez-Torres further admitted to authorities that she suspected the rifle was a stolen firearm and that the seller wanted money to buy crack cocaine. As a convicted felon, Lopez-Torres was prohibited from possessing a firearm. The rifle, recovered from a storage unit being rented by the defendant, was reported by the owner as having been stolen from his automobile. Lopez-Torres' criminal history reflects a 2002 felony conviction in Williamson County, Texas, for tampering with a government record.

"Ms. Lopez-Torres took advantage of young girls by turning them into prostitutes and making a profit off of their misery. Her victims included 17-year-old Mexican girls who were trapped far from home in an indescribably bad situation. Fortunately, law enforcement was able to rescue them from their nightmare of rape and abuse and today Lopez-Torres will be held to answer for her crimes," said United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Upon conviction, Lopez-Torres faces up to ten years in federal prison per count. Lopez-Torres was arrested on July 26, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas, by agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She remains in federal custody. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald C. Carruth is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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